(d) whether it is a fact that proposed Space Navigation Systems are already available for sale in the world; and

(e) if so, the reasons for trying to build and research something which is already in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and Russia have agreed to work together in the development, operation and use of the Russian Navigation Satellite system called GLONASS. However, the details of the commitments on both sides as well as the extent of services are yet to be worked out.

(d) and (e) The US Global Positioning system (GPS) provides navigation and positioning services. Participation in the GLONASS system will provide an independent and alternative option to GPS.

Offer to use EDUSAT to Foreign Countries

2362. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered the use of EDUSAT to countries in Africa for providing connectivity to Elementary and Higher Education and also Satellite based distant learning;

(b) if so, the details and names of the countries and their response to the proposal; and

(c) would India consider sharing its satellite data with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. India has not offered the use of Edusat to African countries for providing tele-education connectivity. However, a Project is under preparation to provide tele-medicine and tele-education connectivity to fifty-three countries of the African Union through a satellite-based network, based on Indian experience.

Completion of Projects

†2363. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects out of the projects under construction during March, 2001 have been completed.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.